

Testimony of Kenneth Dupont before the Energy and Technology Committee
On proposed *House Bill 6249 An Act Establishing a Moratorium on the Siting of Wind
Projects Until the Adoption of Regulations*
Thursday, February 3, 2011

Senator Fonfara, Representative Nardello, Senator Witkos, Representative Hoydick and members of the Energy and Technology Committee, my name is Kenneth Dupont and I am submitting this testimony in opposition to proposed House Bill 6249 An Act Establishing a Moratorium on the Siting of Wind Projects Until the Adoption of Regulations.

The State of Connecticut has established the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) for the purpose of regulating the location of various types of energy producing facilities including nuclear, coal and natural gas power plants, substations, transmission lines and renewable energy projects over one megawatt. The pending proposals submitted by BNE Energy, are currently under review by the Council.

I wish to share with you the following statutory responsibilities of the Council:

- 1) balancing the need for adequate and reliable public utility services at the lowest reasonable cost to consumers with the need to protect the environment and ecology of the state and to minimize damage to scenic, historic, and recreational values;
- 2) providing environmental standards for the location, design, construction, and operation of public utility facilities that are at least as stringent as federal environmental standards and that are sufficient to assure the welfare and protection of the people of Connecticut; and
- 3) encouraging research to develop new and improved methods of generating, storing, and transmitting electricity and fuel and of transmitting and receiving CATV television and telecommunications signals with minimal damage to the environment.

Further, the mission statement of the council contains the following passage:

The Connecticut Siting Council (Council) objectively balances the statewide public need for adequate and reliable services at the lowest reasonable cost to consumers with the need to protect the environment and ecology of the state for the construction and operation of the following facilities, including but not limited to:

- ***Electric transmission lines and electric substation or switchyards, fuel transmission lines and electric generating or storage facilities.***

The people serving on the Council were appointed by the Governor, the Speaker of the House, the President Pro-Tempore of the Senate, the chairperson of the DPUC, and the commissioner of the DEP. I ask you to allow the people appointed to this council the opportunity to perform the duties they were assigned to do. There is no need to impose


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additional regulations or a moratorium for further studies. Regulations currently exist, and the Council has the authority, expertise and the resources available to them to make an informed and intelligent decision regarding the future of energy generation in Connecticut. Renewable energy needs to be a part of that future.

Connecticut is the only one of six New England states to not have an operating commercial wind powered electric generating facility. We also have a mandate to have 27% of our energy produced by renewable sources by 2020. In 2011, 8% of our electricity must come from Class I renewable energy sources including wind. If this mandate is not met, we will face a 5.5 cent per kilowatt hour penalty. With no additional projects on the horizon, we can only assume a hefty penalty in nine years, and money will continue to flow out of state in order to meet mandates established by the legislature for renewable energy.

Please stop kicking the can down the road, let the Council do its job, and help Connecticut meet its mandate for renewable energy.

Sincerely,


Kenneth Dupont
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